THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes,Sir.

(b) The Committee is to submit its report by the end of December, 2002.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Formula for Fixing Price of Petrol and Diesel

*398. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of pertrol and diesel are increased/decreased on the basis of prevailing international prices of crude oil after abandoning of APM;

(b) if so, whether the consumer is unaware of the mechanism of change in prices;

(c) if so,whether Government would, in public interest and transparency, apprise the consumer, through media about the arithmetic applied in arriving at the sale-price of petrol and diesel whenever the change is actually effected; and

(d) if so, the details of the conversion formula?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (d) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the prices of petrol and diesel have been decontrolled. As per the existing arrangement between the oil marketing companies (OMCs) and domestic refineries, the former pay to the latter import parity prices of petrol and diesel,revised on fortnightly basis in line with the prices in the international oil market. OMCs, in turn, revise the domestic consumer prices of these products on fortnightly basis. The prices revisions are duly publicized for the information of the consumers by OMCs on the eve of the revisions.